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Medical policies in conjunction with other nationally recognized standards of care are used to make medical coverage decisions.

Implantable Sinus Stents Policy Indication/Usage:

Implants for post-operative use (e.g., Propel Sinus Implant / Sinuva sinus implant). Drug-eluding stents (DESs) or implants are surgically inserted scaffolds that are proposed to aid in healing affected tissue by local and continuously releasing a loaded drug or saline in a controlled manner for the desired period of time. Some DES are made of a biodegradable material and are absorbed by the body. Commonly used drugs for nasal stents include corticosteroids (e.g., dexamethasone, fluticasone and mometasone) and antibiotics. The device is implanted during sinus surgery where it expands to prop open the sinus, support the bony structure inside the nose and is purposed to prevent scar formation.

Medical Indications for Authorization

Commercial and Medicare Members

SummaCare considers implantable sinus experimental, investigational, and unproven. There is not enough research to show they improve health outcomes.

- Propel and Sinuva sinus implant for treatment of nasal polyps after ethmoid sinus surgery in patient 18 years of age or older is not covered

There are currently no NCD or LCD for implantable sinus stents per CMS.

Limitations

There is not enough research to show that implantable sinus stents, with or without drug-eluting capability, can improve health outcomes for patients with recurrent polyposis or following sinus surgery compared to standard care, such as packing and saline irrigation. In addition, there are no clinical guidelines based on research that recommend the use of postoperative sinus stents. Therefore, the use of sinus stents with or without drug-eluting capability is considered investigational.

A drug-eluting device for maintaining postoperative sinus ostial patency following endoscopic sinus surgery or for the treatment of nasal polyps following ethmoid sinus surgery is considered experimental and investigational because their effectiveness has not been established.

Coverage Decisions

Coverage decisions made per CMS, Hayes, and industry standard research

Plans Covered By This Policy

Commercial and Medicare
Considered experimental and investigational for all lines of business

Sources Reviewed

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